MAY 2014

“Making the most of later life—with Music” illustrated by Clif and Bettye Ware, May 27

UMRA’s Annual Meeting and Special Festive Luncheon is on May 27 this year. Our final program of the year features UMRA members Clif and Bettye Ware, whose presentation will illustrate how music and performance helps us enjoy the challenges and opportunities presented in later life.


Exclusively in opera, oratorio, and recital venues in the U.S. and abroad; he has made four recordings.


Bettye Ware earned a B.A. degree in piano and organ and an M.S. degree in English literature. In addition to having maintained a private piano studio throughout her professional career, she serves occasionally as an organist, a recital and auditions accompanist, a piano adjudicator, song arranger, and keyboardist (CD accompaniments) for the Adventures in Singing song anthology. She also sings and is an alto in the Plymouth Congregational Church choir. Bettye and Clif have three married sons and four grandchildren.

Join us on Tuesday, May 27, for what promises to be an enjoyable and memorable end-of-year program. Please see the sidebar and page 3 for more information about reserving your place for this special event.

—John Adams, UMRA President
The things we carry … and carry

When we drive to our cabin near Hayward, Wisconsin, I’m struck by the ubiquity of public self-storage units—every town provides one or more—and when you pass an open unit you see it’s packed with stuff. There are more than 50,000 self-storage facilities in the U.S., with 2.3 billion square feet or 78 square miles of rentable floor space—that’s three times the area of Manhattan.

People have trouble disposing of unneeded stuff. The kids don’t want it, the thrift shop can’t use much of it, you can’t sell most of it; so we hang onto it, for what purpose? Who knows?

Of course some hope to take it with them when they die—like the guy who put all his property into cash and entrusted his best friend to make sure that his money was placed into his casket before he was buried. After the funeral a friend who knew of the deceased’s request asked the best friend, “Did you really bury all his money with him?” The friend replied, “More or less, I put a check for the full amount into the casket.”

But our lifetime of stuff is only one challenge of the retirement years.

Now, at the conclusion of our program year it’s time to reflect on what we’ve accomplished and plan for next year. Our monthly luncheon and workshop programs and activities of all our committees provide intellectual stimulation along with social opportunities. Our representatives on University Senate committees monitor University policy on a range of health and welfare programs affecting retirees. The U of M Volunteer Center does an exceptional job, matching volunteer opportunities with willing UMRA members and other retirees.

Already thinking of next year, we’ll continue helping members plan ahead and enrich their lives, building on what began at our April workshop: “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate” (for a copy of the workbook with that title, see: order@extension.umn.edu), which examined the challenges surrounding plans for passing on non-titled property in our estates.

That challenge accompanies others: what to do about titled property and how to handle it through wills and legal arrangements? How to stay healthy? What about living wills and powers of attorney for our health care? How about our changing needs and appropriate housing?

Next fall we’ll hold workshops on adjusting our housing as needs change during retirement: Should we move? Or stay and remodel? Should we rent or buy? Should we relocate part of the year, or migrate permanently? Whom should we consult on these major changes?

And, for many of us, there is the nagging challenge of what to do with a lifetime of professional files, books, papers, and memorabilia. What belongs in the University Archives? What should be donated? What should be tossed? What should be retained for memoirs, autobiographies, and for passing on to others? When will we get around to labeling those photographs?

Which brings us back to stuff. Maybe I’m thinking out loud, echoing my wife’s concerns, but it’s serious, and must be addressed by us now rather than imposing on others later. Next year should be interesting.

Thanks for your support.
— John Adams, UMRA President

No summer off for UMRA Cares committee; members offer year-long support

The UMRA Cares committee members stand ready throughout the year to assist and support members who may be facing serious illness or experiencing the death of a loved one. This committee was formed by members who know first-hand how important it is to have support in times of stress or loss. If you or someone you know wants to talk with a member of UMRA Cares, please e-mail them at umracares@umn.edu or call and leave a message at the office phone: 612-626-4403.

In Remembrance

We report the passing of UMRA members as we learn of losses to our community. Since the Newsletter was published last month, we have received the following news. Our condolences to the friends and family of:

John Q. (Jack) Imholte, 84, retired faculty and former chancellor for University of Minnesota Morris, died April 20, 2014. He was an UMRA member from 2001 to 2007.
May meeting includes annual election

During the business portion of the meeting on May 27, members will elect next year’s UMRA leadership. The nominating committee presents the following for your approval.

For Officers:
President-elect   Jean Kinsey
Secretary       Julie Medbery (fourth one-year term)
Treasurer       Richard Skaggs (fifth one-year term)

For Board of Directors:
Carl Adams
Roger Clemence
Sherilyn Goldsmith May
Jeanne Markell
Donna Peterson

Please turn to page 6 or www.umn.edu/umra for profiles of the candidates for president-elect and new board members.

After election, or re-election, the above members will join in leading the organization with the following continuing officers:

President, 2014-15   Hal Miller
Past president       John Adams

and board members who are continuing to serve out terms: Joanne Eicher, Vern Eidman, Virgil Larson, Vandora Linck, David Naumann, Karhleen O’Brien, and Paul Quie.

Board members who are completing their terms in May are: Past President Ron Anderson, Victor Bloomfield, Jan Hogan, Judd Sheridan, Craig Swan, and Julia Wallace.

Please join in the festivities of the May Special Luncheon and annual meeting to celebrate a successful year and to thank these members for their service and leadership.

Use a credit card to renew your membership at the May annual meeting

Members who prefer to use credit cards, rather than paying membership dues by check, may do so at the upcoming annual meeting and May luncheon. If this interests you, look for Virgil Larson at the check-in table before and after the May 27 meeting sessions.

Your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or AmericanExpress card can be “swiped” on Virgil’s iPhone, and your receipt will be delivered by e-mail or to your smart phone.

Renewing at the May Luncheon will save us all time and postage money. The membership year ends on August 31; renewal emails or letters will go out in June. As was done last summer, you may again renew online with a credit card.

Annual Meeting Festive Luncheon features your choice among three entrées

(Please be sure to indicate your menu selection when you send in your reservations.)

Social
Come early and mingle with friends and colleagues. Wine and beer cash bar opens at 11:30 a.m.; lunch served at noon. The business meeting, award presentations, and program will follow.

Menu
All meals are served with fresh baked bread and seasonal vegetables.

Please select one entrée from the following:

1. Mediterranean Herbed Chicken: Locally raised, bone-in chicken, both dark and white meat marinated with lemon juice, garlic, and fresh herbs; perfectly roasted until crisp and juicy. Served over soft parmesan polenta.

2. Pan-Seared Canadian Walleye: The most popular item from the Campus Club menu, the walleye is lightly seasoned and topped with Hope Creamery herb butter and lemon. Served with steamed herbed potatoes.

3. Seasonal Vegetable Crepe: Delicate spinach crepes filled with fresh vegetables, gryere cheese, and béchamel.

Finale for all: Assorted organic cookies, fresh brewed coffee and water will be served.

Deadline for Reservations: Tuesday, May 20

Please rush your reservations with your entrée selections and check for $25 for each reservation to: UMRA May Reservations, c/o Judy Leahy Grimes, 1937 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1728.

See sidebar on page 1 for more contact information.

Discount coupons for UMRA members

Among the many discounts UMRA members enjoy is the privilege of parking on campus for an entire day for only $6. Thanks to Parking and Transportation, members may obtain coupons that reduce hourly fees to the single all-day fee, with the exception of parking for special events. Members may obtain coupons: (1) at any UMRA luncheon; (2) when you renew your membership in midsummer; (3) by sending a request and self-addressed stamped envelope to John Anderson, 1332 Como Blvd. E., St. Paul, MN 55117. (Up to 21 coupons will require one Forever Stamp.)
UMRA to recognize five members with service awards at Annual Meeting luncheon

The UMRA Committee on Service Engagement has chosen the following recipients for the 2014 UMRA Awards for Service, to be recognized at the May 27 Annual Meeting. This year there are two awards for Service to UMRA.

2014 Award for Service to UMRA: Earl Nolting

For nearly a decade, Earl Nolting has been tireless in his efforts to make UMRA a strong, vibrant organization. A list of his contributions is long and includes both committee and board leadership positions. From 2008 to 2010 he served as UMRA’s Treasurer and then several more years on the board. He is a long-standing member of the Membership Committee; and he has served as workshop coordinator, participant in AROHE Conference Planning, co-chair for Communications and Technology, and member of the group exploring the feasibility of a U of M Retiree Center. He is co-chair of the UMRA Cares Committee, which was initiated last year to provide comfort and support to members who are suffering illness or loss. He also developed the program for UMRA’s fall welcome reception for new members.

Earl is certainly an idea man; but he also digs in and makes ideas work. It is Earl’s persistence from year to year that has made UMRA’s discount benefits grow. Because Earl effectively solicits University sponsors for the Newsletter, we now can regularly offer six pages of news for retirees.

In all of his roles, Earl has been an active and innovative leader, a hard-working member, and a caring and sensitive colleague. Because of his long-standing dedication and active involvement, Earl Nolting is richly deserving of this award for service to UMRA.

2014 Award for Service to UMRA: John and Judith Howe

John and Judy Howe have been key to the vigorous functioning of UMRA for more than a decade. In the spring of 2004 John was incoming president and Judy was serving as treasurer of UMRA. According to a close observer, John and Judy breathed new life into the retirees’ organization at that time. John’s vision was to give UMRA a professional presence on campus, and during his presidency, he enrolled others in accomplishing that. He invested in a new design for the Newsletter, and he sparked committees into action. Together he and Judy worked to attain and maintain University privileges, such as e-mail accounts for all retirees.

Their working styles are quite different. Judy has been heard to say, “Just give me a job to do; but don’t ask me to deliberate about it in a committee meeting.” John, on the other hand, is a master at rallying a group to work in concert on a common vision. Taken together, their contributions are crucial to making UMRA the vigorous organization it is today.

2014 Award for Service to the University: Paul Weiblen

Paul Weiblen has had a long and distinguished career in geology at the University of Minnesota, as student, faculty member, and now as an active retiree. In his earlier career, Paul played a role in two great discoveries: first, with his Ph.D. advisor William C. Phinney, the formation of copper-nickel resources in Minnesota, and second, with Mark Jirsa of the Minnesota Geological Survey, the dramatic two billion-year-old collision of a giant meteorite with Earth.

In retirement, Paul has sustained a high level of research activity due, in part, to support from UMRA’s Professional Development Grants for Retirees program, as well as research space that the Minnesota Geological Survey and the School of Earth Sciences have provided him.

Service Awards, continued on page 5 —
Even more notably, however, Paul has given back extensively over 15 years of retirement through programs such as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), in which he has lectured and led field trips throughout the state for the benefit of Minnesotans who are deeply committed to our environment, our health, our economy, and our way of life.

Because of his dedicated and energetic commitment to teaching retirees and other Minnesotans, Paul Weiblen is a deserving recipient of the UMRA Award for Service to the University.

2014 Award for Service to the Community:
M. Janice Hogan Schiltgen

Besides her many activities on behalf of UMRA, Jan Hogan Schiltgen is a leader of volunteers from 40 faith communities, which, in September 2012, opened a shelter for homeless families in Washington and South Ramsey Counties. The shelter, “Hope for the Journey Home” (HJH), is located at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Oakdale in a vacant rectory.

In 2013 HJH served 61 families, including 75 adults and 129 children. The average stay is four weeks before they move on to permanent housing or make other arrangements. Both paid and volunteer staffs help families find solutions to their housing and other living challenges. The shelter accepts individual volunteers, but in addition, each church organizes and brings in volunteers who commit from one to two weeks per year. For more information, see the HJH website: www.guardian-angels.org/justice-and-outreach/hjh.html

This project provides a badly needed service, where none was before. It is exemplary in that it does not depend upon outside funding and relies on the goodwill of community members. Jan herself has been exemplary in that she has given of her professional expertise in family services and family financial management to launch a community project with a large impact. Her dedication makes her clearly deserving of the UMRA Award for Service to the Community.

Securian Financial Group reports 2013 status to U of M Retirement Committee

On March 3, 2014, the Securian Financial Group discussed their 2013 financial results at the University of Minnesota Retirement Committee meeting. They reported another year of strong growth and improved financial strength.

Securian expanded sales of the products they sell (which include life insurance, credit insurance, retirement plans, and individual annuities) and maintained or gained market share in all business lines last year. Strong growth provides the basis to increase their capital and surplus.

There are numerous ways to measure whether the capital and surplus available are large enough to assure us that the company is financially sound. A primary measure used by insurance regulators is the risk-based capital ratio. This measure compares the ratio of the company’s capital and surplus with the minimum amount of capital appropriate (considering its size and risk profile) for the insurance company to support its overall business operations. The industry recommends that a company’s capital and surplus be at least two to three times this minimum amount. Securian’s risk-based capital ratio was more than five times the minimum, placing them in the upper one-third of their peer group.

How stable is this cushion of capital and surplus funds to unfavorable market events? Securian maintains a highly diversified investment portfolio of high quality bonds, mortgage loans, public equity, and other assets, with very limited exposure to any one investment. They reported no delinquent loans or defaults in the portfolio at the close of 2013. Furthermore, they report that stress tests indicate Securian is well positioned to maintain a strong risk-based capital ratio in the event the economy experiences a severe decline in the equity market, a significant loss in value of the general account value, and/or an interest-rate spike.

— Vern Eidman, UMRA Representative to the University of Minnesota Retirement Committee

Condo available at 1666 Coffman

A condo unit is available at 1666 Coffman St., Falcon Heights, for a former University employee. Contact UMRA member Alletta Jervey, 651-917-7595 for information.

See the UMRA newsletter online, look for friends in photos of past events, connect to resources for retirement, and stay current on news for retirees — Watch for UMRA’s new and ever-expanding website: www.umn.edu/umra
Meet the candidates for UMRA’s president-elect and board members

Candidate for President-elect

Jean Kinsey retired in 2010 after 34 years on the faculty of Applied Economics at the U of M. She served as director of The Food Industry Center, 1995–2010. Other leadership positions include: chair of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 1996–97; president of the American Agricultural Economics Association, 2000–02; expert panel member for the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine for a study of policies related to the federal food program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and (currently) a Framework for Analyzing the Health, Social, and Economic Effects of the U.S. Food System; Board of Managers, PJM, LLC. Philadelphia, PA, 2003–present.

Jean has been active in the UMRA Photo Club since its inception. She is excited to work with UMRA colleagues to continue to build programs to serve our retirees and the broader community.

Candidates for the Board of Directors

Carl Adams retired in 2013 from the faculty of Information and Decision Sciences in the Carlson School of Management (CSOM). He was department chairman for 18 years, special assistant for Planning for Bob Stein and subsequently Nils Hasselmo, and also the director of the Management Information Systems Research Center in CSOM.

“I see UMRA as a win-win activity for its members and for the University that I want to be active in supporting. I have served the University Senate in many capacities—senator, committee member and chair over the past 40 years.”

Roger Clemence was a member of the faculty in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Studies from 1966 until 1997 and served as associate dean and interim dean for the college. Throughout his teaching years, Roger was involved with design course work that helped students work with, and in, the community via Service/Learning. He directed the Urban Education Center for the University’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs from 1970 to 1977. Until 2009, he taught collaboratively in a graduate seminar called “Place: Meaning and Making.”

Roger was named a Morse Alumni Distinguished Teacher in 1973. He believes deeply in the merits of cross-disciplinary teaching and learning. He has been a member of UMRA for many years and counts many friends among its members.

Sherilyn Goldsmith May, civil service, retired in 2009 after 17 years as education specialist at the University of Minnesota Child Development Center in the College of Education and Human Development. Sheri served on the advisory boards for the University’s Center for Early Education (CEED) and the Early Childhood Programs at North Hennepin Technical College and she was a member of the University’s Institutional Review Board for the Study of Human Subjects for four years. She has a Ph.D. in Family Education.

Sheri joined UMRA in 2009 and is a member of UMRA Photo Club.

“...My interest in becoming an UMRA board member is to continue to be involved in, and of service to, the University community.”

Jeanne Markell retired in July 2009 from a 40-year career at the University of Minnesota. In 1987 Jeanne became legislative director for the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics. Subsequent roles in central administration included chief of staff to Interim President Richard Sauer and President Nils Hasselmo, assistant VP for External Affairs, and associate provost for Professional Studies.

In 1997, Jeanne returned to U of M Extension as associate dean for External Relations. Before retiring she was the Tabor Land Grant Fellow for the National Association of Counties, in Washington, D.C.

Donna Peterson, P&A, retired in 2012 after 22 years at the University. She began her career at the University as director of State Relations in 1990, later serving as associate vice president for Government and Community relations. As the

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Candidates, continued from page 6

Chief liaison for the University at the state capitol, in Washington D.C., and local municipalities, she communicated with members of the Minnesota Legislature, Congress, the governor, and other elected officials.

As associate vice president, Donna oversaw the activities of the directors of federal, state, and community relations, and legislative advocacy initiatives. Prior to Donna’s tenure at the University, she was a member of the Minnesota Senate and the House of Representatives.

Conference for the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education, Aug. 10–12

From August 10 to 12 the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE), an organization of national scope, will convene on our campus.

Several UMRA members will be needed to help with hospitality. Among the presentations will be several UMRA members, well known to us all.

Victor Bloomfield: “Making a Successful Photo Club”
David Naumann: “Going Dynamic and Data-based—Upgrading Your Website”
Jan Hogan, Judd Sheridan, and John Howe: “Professional Grants for Retirees: Still Driven to Discover”

Ron Anderson has been our lead representative to the planning committee, composed of representatives from many universities and colleges. Also on UMRA’s AROHE Program Committee are John Adams, John Anderson, Earl Nolting, and Kathy O’Brien. John Adams is now the lead representative because Ron is not able to attend.

More information about the conference, sessions, and registration is posted on the AROHE website (www.arohe.org). Register before June 20 for a lower fee.

—John Anderson, ander049@umn.edu

President’s Office provides conference support

President Kaler announced that his office would provide $9,000 to help support the two retiree organization conferences to be held at the Commons Hotel on campus this August. The funds will be allocated between the two conferences. Both he and Provost Hanson will speak at the conferences as well.

U of M retirees have unique opportunity to attend two conferences this summer

Did you ever wonder how other retiree organizations do it? Are you interested in sharing ideas and the enthusiasm that comes from connecting with people from other universities? This summer, when UMRA and the University of Minnesota host two national conferences for retiree organizations, you will have the unique opportunity to explore those questions and meet fellow retirees from across the country.

You are invited to assist or attend the Big Ten Conference, August 8–10; as well as the AROHE Conference, August 10–12, on the Twin Cities campus. Some details are outlined in two articles on the columns of this page.

The Big Ten conference, August 8–10

All the retiree organizations in the Big Ten, including newly added Rutgers and Maryland, have been invited, and we expect most to send representatives to attend and participate.

Plans are now taking shape for a program built around the theme of “Retiree–University Synergy.”

The kickoff on Friday evening will include a reception, dinner, and presentation about the sustainability of organizations in the culture of modern society. Saturday will feature sessions about wide-ranging topics such as the impact of retiree organizations, university support of retirees, communications, health-fitness-acuity-longevity, recognizing staff retirees, and contributing to your university’s mission.

After a tour of campus highlights, Saturday will be capped with the Showboat presentation of “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.” On Sunday morning each retiree organization will share some of their campus’s most successful activities.

UMRA members are invited to attend any or all conference sessions. Advance registration will be necessary so we can plan for the numbers at sessions and numbers for meals. A registration fee of $150 includes five meals over the three days, as well as the Showboat tickets, but because UMRA members may elect “part-time participation,” the registration fee can be adjusted based on meals elected.

UMRA volunteers will also be needed to assist with the program and serve as hosts. As more details become available, they will be published through the UMRA-member listserv and posted on the UMRA website (www.umn.edu/umra/index.php).

If you have questions or an interest in volunteering, please contact John Anderson at ander049@umn.edu.
U M R A
University of Minnesota Retirees Association

University of Minnesota
McNamara Alumni Center
Room 264, Suite 250
200 Oak Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

Have you changed your address, e-mail, or phone?

1. Print new information below.
2. Cut out this form and address label.
3. Mail both to the address above.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City, State _________________________
Zip _______ Phone ________________
E-mail ____________________________
Other Info ________________________

Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to new members who have recently joined UMRA. Greet them at the next luncheon meeting, and add them to your 2014 UMRA Directory.

Maurice and Signe Dysken, faculty, Psychiatry Department
4838 Colfax Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-825-6070; 612-467-3308; maurice.dysken@va.gov

Phillip and Karin Peterson, faculty, Department of Medicine/Medical School
4822 Russell Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55410
612-920-5578; peter137@umn.edu

Have a great summer, stay in touch with your UMRA friends, and invite new retirees to join us

Watch for your membership renewal reminder in the mail (postal or e-mail) by July. Memberships expire on August 31, but don’t wait until the last minute!

Your newsletter and monthly programs will resume in September, but while you are waiting for fall, you’ll be able to stay in touch by checking for UMRA news online at www.umn.edu/umra, as well as by reading periodic notes that will appear in your e-mail Inbox.

The Board of Directors and members of UMRA thank the University of Minnesota Bookstores for their sponsorship of the May Newsletter. Reminder: U Bookstores offers UMRA members a 10-percent discount throughout the year.

May Sale

Save 25–75%
On a huge selection of U of M & Golden Gopher fashions
May 5-9 & May 12-16
Outdoors on Coffman Plaza, 2:00-4:00, weather permitting

University of Minnesota Bookstores
Gifted, inspired, creative, curious